

**Portable Assisted Study Sequence
History of the United States A
Middle School Level**

SCOPE OF COURSE

History of the United States, A and B, is a two-semester, middle level course. Part A covers the history of the Western Hemisphere, from pre-Colombian civilizations to the beginning of the 20th century. Part B begins with the early 1900s and continues to the present day. Each half of the course addresses standards in social studies (history, geography, economics, and civics), in English-Language Arts (reading and writing), and in mathematics (creating and interpreting statistics, charts and graphs).

SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 1 – Prehistory to Colonization of the Western Hemisphere

1. Geography of the Western Hemisphere
2. Ice Age Migrations and Early Civilizations
3. The Empire Builders
4. The Science of Studying History
5. Native Peoples of North America: the Arctic, Pacific Northwest, Basin, and Plateau Regions
6. The Southwest and Great Plains Regions
7. The Mound Builders, Eastern Woodlands, and Southeastern Regions
8. The Age of Discovery – First Contact
9. Cultures in Contrast: the Columbian Exchange
10. The Colonization of the New World: the Spanish and French Create Empires
11. The English Come to North America
12. The Thirteen English Colonies
13. Comparing the European Colonies in North America

UNIT 2 – The French and Indian War to the Constitutional Convention

1. The French and Indian War
2. Relations with Great Britain Change
3. The Road to the Revolutionary War
4. The Revolutionary War
5. Independence
6. The Revolutionary War Continues to Its End
7. A Look Back at the Revolutionary War
8. Founding Fathers of a New Nation
9. The New Nation: the Critical Period
10. Making a New Plan of Government
11. The U.S. Constitution: A Bundle of Compromises
12. The Road to Ratification
13. The Bill of Rights

UNIT 3 – The Constitution

1. Overview of the U.S. Constitution
2. Article I: The Legislative Branch
3. Article II: The Executive Branch
4. Article III: The Judicial Branch
5. Articles IV – VI
6. Check and Balances: The Federal System
7. State Governments and Constitutions
8. Local Government
9. How a Bill Becomes a Law
10. The Legal Process
11. Constitutional Rights in Action
12. National Symbols
13. Citizenship in the United States

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UNIT 4 – The New Nation: 1789 – 1865

1. The New Government Begins
2. Solving Financial Problems and Interpreting the Constitution
3. George Washington’s Precedents and Legacy
4. The Federalists and Democratic Republicans
5. The Age of Jefferson
6. Domestic and Foreign Conflicts
7. The Industrial Revolution in America
8. Growth and Expansion under the Republicans
9. The Age of Jackson
10. “From Sea to Shining Sea”
11. Sectionalism Grows into Conflict
12. Sectional Differences Lead to War
13. The Civil War

UNIT 5 – The United States Comes of Age: 1866 – 1910

1. Reconstruction
2. The Realities of Reconstruction in the South
3. The Rapid Growth of the West
4. The Native American Way of Life Ends
5. The End of the Frontier
6. The United States Becomes an Industrial Giant
7. Big Business – the Empire Builders
8. The Rise of Labor Unions
9. Immigration
10. Reform Movements
11. The New Manifest Destiny
12. Theodore Roosevelt and Relations with Latin America
13. The United States at the Turn of the Century

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UNIT 1 – World War I to the Great Depression

1. The Progressive Party and the Early 20th Century
2. World War I
3. The United States Enters the World War I
4. The United States at War
5. Wilson’s Fourteen Points and the Treaty of Versailles
6. A Return to *Normalcy* and Economic Boom
7. Reform and the Age of Intolerance
8. The Roaring Twenties – A New National Culture Emerges
9. From Boom Times to Hard Times – The Beginning of the Great Depression
10. The End of Laissez Faire: the Government Tries to Help
11. The New Deal – More Than a Temporary Solution
12. Pros and Cons of the New Deal
13. Essay on New Deal Programs

UNIT 2 – World War II and the Cold War

1. The Rise of Dictatorships in the 1930s
2. Another World War
3. World War II: The Home Front
4. Fighting World War II
5. The Defeat of the Japanese – World War II Ends
6. The Holocaust and Other War Crimes
7. The Cold War
8. Fighting the Cold War Around the World
9. The Cold War’s Effect on American Society
10. Postwar Policies: 1945 – 1960
11. American Society in the 1950s
12. The Civil Rights Movement Begins
13. The Cold War Essay

UNIT 3 – The 1960s – 1980s: Social Turmoil & Cold War Changes

1. The 1960s Begin
2. The Cold War Continues/The End of Camelot
3. Lyndon Baines Johnson – the Great Society Years
4. The Civil Rights Movement Continues
5. Other Minorities Fight for Their Rights
6. The War in Vietnam
7. The Nixon Years
8. Watergate
9. The Ford Presidency
10. Jimmy Carter
11. Conservatives Take Charge
12. Foreign Policy Under Ronald Reagan
13. The 1960s vs. the 1980s

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UNIT 4 – The Current Era

1. At the End of the Cold War
2. The Gulf War
3. The Clinton Years: Foreign Policy – America’s New Role
4. Terrorism
5. Domestic Issues and Policies
6. George W. Bush
7. 9/11
8. Responses to 9/11
9. The Bush Presidency after 9/11
10. Barack Obama – Economic Programs
11. President Obama’s Foreign and Domestic Policies
12. The Decades Project
13. Preparing Your Report and Presentation

UNIT 5 – Being American in the 21st Century

1. The U.S. as a Global Power
2. The U.S. Economy – a Global View
3. Globalization
4. Effects of Globalization – Beyond the Economics
5. Immigration
6. Migrant Workers
7. Modern American Society
8. The Business of America is Business
9. Modern Entrepreneurs
10. Personal Finance
11. The Technology Explosion
12. The Future of the Planet and Your Role in it
13. Education and You